

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, and 11-13 have been canceled. Claims 1, 7-10 and 14-15 have been amended.

Replacement sheets have been provided for all of the drawings. In general, the replacement sheets are formalized drawings of the originally submitted drawings. No new matter has been added. Additional changes have been made as described below.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, the objections to the drawings are believed to be in error. The Examiner states that the leading edge and the slanted leading face for the tongue are not shown. Applicant respectfully points out that in Figure 3, described on page 11, lines 7-9, "[t]ongue 22 also has a leading edge 35 and a slanted leading face 36 slanting back therefrom. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, the objection to FIG. 8 is unclear. The reference numerals referred to by the Examiner appear to be wrong. Applicant does not understand the objection. FIG. 8 illustrates a section 54 having a jaw portion 55. Jaw portion 55 is carried by a jaw element

64. Jaw element 64 is pivotally coupled to section 54 completing that section. The structural cooperation between jaw element 64 and section 54 seems clear. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Still referring to paragraph 3 of the Action, in figures 5 and 6, reference numeral 44 has been changed to 45, and the pivot has been designated 44. Tongue "62" in Figure 8 is believed to be clearly shown in the replacement sheet. It is also visible in broken line in figures 9 and 10. Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Referring to paragraph 4 of the Action, the changes suggested by Examiner have been made to page 8, line 16, and page 11, line 9. Pivot 44 has been added to the drawings, consistent with the description on page 11 line 23. Additional, "45" has been added to the drawings to designate the post. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 rejections

The rejection of claim 9 as being indefinite is believed to be improper. The Examiner contends that claim 9, line 2, "the second jaw portion" lacks antecedent basis

and should be changed to --the jaw portion--. This is believed to be incorrect as there is antecedent basis for "the second jaw portion" in claim 1, line 4. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections

The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 10 as being anticipated by Reich are rendered moot in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 10 and cancellation of claim 2.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections

The rejections of claims 1-5, 10-12 as unpatentable are rendered moot in view of the amendments made to claims 1, 7-10, 14 and 15. claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 6 and all intervening claims.

Objected to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 6 and all intervening claims. Claim 6 was objected to. Therefore claim 1 is in condition for

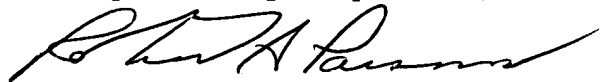
allowance. Claims 7 and 8 depend from amended claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and all intervening claims. Therefore claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 13 and all intervening claims. Therefore claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 10 and are in condition for allowance for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that each of the claims is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions or remaining issues, Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for a speedy resolution.

Respectfully requested,



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